

RESOLUTION No. 15-358

WHEREAS, the City Council and the Mayor of the City of Huntsville, Alabama are apprised that Mr. Abner Merriweather will receive the Government and Industry Leadership Award, presented by the Huntsville Progressive Alumni Chapter of the Alabama A&M University Alumni Association, Inc., on this Saturday, June 6, 2015, held at the Ernest L. Knight Reception Center on the campus of Alabama A&M University; and,

WHEREAS, Mr. Abner Merriweather is a native of Demopolis, Alabama. He attended Tuskegee University where he earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Electrical Engineering. In 1983, he began his career as a civilian federal employee with the United States Army Missile Command at Redstone Arsenal. He is employed as an Electronics Engineer in the Aviation Engineering Directorate at the United States Army Aviation Missile Research, Development, and Engineering Center (AMRDEC). As an Electronics Engineer, he works with rotorcrafts to ensure that the aircrafts are in compliance with safety requirements for flying. In 2010, Mr. Merriweather volunteered for a four months tour in Afghanistan. As a Liaison Officer in Afghanistan, he worked directly with the soldiers in the field; and,

WHEREAS, in 1977, Mr. Merriweather became involved with the American Federation of Government Employees (AFGE) Local #1858, an American labor union representing over 650,000 employees of the federal government. After becoming a member of the organization, he was appointed immediately to Assistant Vice President for the AMRDEC professional unit. He has served in several leadership positions and on the executive board and arbitration committee of AFGE where he made decisions on behalf of the bargaining unit employees; and,

WHEREAS, since becoming Union President, he has represented more than 100 equal employment opportunity (EEO) cases and countless grievances. Also, he has interfaced with two and three star Generals, addressing issues on behalf of the bargaining unit employees. Additionally, he has served as a representative on several class action lawsuits. Moreover, he has engaged with Senator Jeff Sessions and management authorities in constructive dialog toward ensuring equitable labor practices across the bargaining unit entities. He works unselfishly and diligently to resolve workforce areas of concern. Through government executives and legislative level exchanges, Mr. Merriweather consistently demonstrates resilience, tenacity, and compassion for righteousness in the workplace and the community for all bargaining unit employees; and,

WHEREAS, to keep the bargaining unit employees abreast regarding employment issues, cutbacks, and potential reduction in force situations, he hosts lunch and learn meetings throughout Redstone Arsenal. Since he has been Union President, the membership in AFGE has increased over thirty percent. Recently, he was re-elected to serve a third term as Union President. During his third term in office, he has vowed to continue the challenges of advocating changes for the 10,000 plus federal employees who support the soldiers in the field; and,

WHEREAS, he is a member of several professional, civic, and community organizations. As a member of the Alabama State Council under the umbrella of AFL-CIO, he serves as the Assistant President. In recognition of his dedicated support to soldiers in the field, he has

received two Presidential Medals, two Commander's Coins, and two Deputy Commander's Coins, and other distinguished awards.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council and Mayor of the City of Huntsville, Alabama, gratefully acknowledge, congratulate, and extend best wishes to Mr. Abner Merriweather, on receiving the Government and Industry Leadership Award. May you have continued success in all future endeavors.

ADOPTED this the 28th day of May, 2015.

**President of the City Council
of the City of Huntsville, Alabama**

APPROVED this the 28th day of May, 2015.

**Mayor of the City of
Huntsville, Alabama**